

Message Text

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15

ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-04 /045 W

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R 230735Z SEP 76

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4145

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, OTRA, SWEL, ET

SUBJECT: SITUATION IN KEREN

REF: (A) ASMARA 0734 (NOTAL), (B) ADDIS ABABA 10355 (NOTAL)

1. AMCIT DR. EDWARD P. IRONS FLEW TO KEREN ON SEPT 18 TO INSPECT THE PROJECT CONCERN HOSPITAL AND RETURNED TO ASMARA ON SEPT 21. HE RECEIVED EXCELLENT COOPERATION FROM THE EPMG PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT IN ASMARA. IRONS PLANNED RETURN TO ADDIS SEPT 23.

2. IN KEREN, DR. IRONS FIRST MET WITH THE CO OF THE 8TH BRIGADE, COL. KINFE GABRIEL, WHO GAVE HIM THE IMPRESSION THAT THE PRESENCE OF ANOTHER FOREIGNER IN KEREN CREATED JUST ONE MORE BURDEN FOR THE AUTHORITIES, YET THE COL. WAS BOTH HELPFUL AND COOPERATIVE. IN ADDITION TO THE PROJECT CONCERN HOSPITAL, IRONS VISITED THE DEAF SCHOOL OF THE SWEDISH EVANGELICAL MISSION, THE LALMBA ORPHANAGE, AND AN ITALIAN CATHOLIC SECONDARY SCHOOL. HE FOUND ALL THESE INSTITUTIONS FUNCTIONING QUITE WELL DESPITE THE LOCAL SEMI-ISOLATED SITUATION. THE ETHIOPIAN MILITARY GARRISON HAD REQUISITIONED A WING OF THE LALMBA ORPHANAGE, BUT HAD YET TO OCCUPY IT. OTHERWISE, ALL THESE INSTITUTIONS WERE UNHINDERED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES. THEY HAD ADEQUATE SUPPLIES OF FOOD AND MEDICINES BECAUSE THEY HAD HAD THE FORESIGHT TO STOCKPILE WHEN SUCH ITEMS WERE AVAILABLE.

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3. THE SECURITY SITUATION IN KEREN APPEARED HAVE STABILIZED IN

RECENT WEEKS. THERE WAS NO FIRING AT NIGHT, AND THE ONLY CASUALTY IRONS SAW WAS A PEASANT WHO WAS KILLED AT A CHECKPOINT ON THE AGORDAT ROAD. THE CIVIL POPULACE SPOKE HIGHLY OF THE ETHIOPIAN COMMANDER WHO HAS BEEN IN KEREN FOR TWO YEARS NOW. HE REQUIRES THAT ALL INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE ARMY AND POLICE PERSONNEL BE THOROUGHLY INVESTIGATED, WHICH IMPRESSES THE LOCAL POPULACE AND ENGENDERS CONFIDENCE IN HIS FAIRNESS. THE FOOD SITUATION IS ACCEPTABLE, BUT THERE ARE SHORTAGES OF TEFF AND MEAT. THERE HAD BEEN NO ELECTRICITY FOR 8 DAYS AS OF IRONS' DEPARTURE, AND WATER WAS CUT OFF FOR LACK OF FUEL FOR THE PUMPS ON SEPT 19. PLANS ARE BEING MADE TO AIRLIFT FUEL TO KEREN TO RESTORE BOTH POWER AND WATER.

4. DR. IRONS WAS PROVIDED COPY OF MESSAGE FROM USAID/NEPAL RELAYED FROM DEPT. AND ADDIS CONCERNING SCHEDULE FOR SEPT 27 TO OCT 10.
SLUTZ

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Message Attributes

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